GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:845
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012
GLOBAL WARMING
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy firmed-up by the Government to deal with the global warming;

(b) if so, whether the glaciers of Himalayas have started melting due to global warming;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the islands and States in the country which are likely to be affected as a result thereof;

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps for the safety of these islands and States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) Government has come up with the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which was launched on June 30, 2008 to deal with the climate change related issues. The NAPCC includes a National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system with a view, inter-alia, to strengthen the system for observing and monitoring the Himalayan glaciers. Besides, a research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun to undertake comprehensive glacier research in the country. The Government has developed Guidelines and best practices for Sustaining Himalayan Eco-system (G-She).

The study conducted by Geological Survey of India indicates that the Himalayan glaciers are receding at a varying rate in different regions. The recession of glaciers is a part of the natural cyclic process of changes in size and other attributes of the glaciers. These changes could be attributed to various reasons including global warming.

(d) to (f) According to the assessment report titled "Climate Change and India: A 4X4 Assessment-A Sectoral and Regional Analysis for 2030s", released by the Government of India in November, 2010, increase in the melting of water from the Himalayan glaciers may contribute to the rise in the local sea level along the Indian coastline. However, no specific mention is made about the impact of glacier melting on islands and States.

Coastal Regulation Zone Notification and Island Protection Zone Notification were published in 2011 with an aim of protecting livelihoods of fisher folk communities, preservation of ecology and promotion of economic activity in island and coastal areas.